

CHAPTER NO. 336

SENATE BILL NO. 427

By Haynes

Substituted for: House Bill No. 325

By Buck

AN ACT To amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-6-225, relative to workers' compensation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-6-225, is amended by deleting subsections (a), (b), (c) and (d) in their entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(a)(1) In case of a dispute over or failure to agree upon compensation under the Workers' Compensation Law between the employer and employee or the dependents of the employee, either party may file a civil action in the circuit, criminal, or chancery court in the county in which the employee resides or in which the alleged injury occurred. In instances where the employee resides outside the State of Tennessee and where the injury occurs outside the State of Tennessee, then the complaint shall be filed in any county where the employer maintains an office.

(2) Neither party in a civil action filed pursuant to this section shall have the right to demand a jury.

(b) The Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure and the Tennessee Rules of Evidence shall apply to all civil actions filed pursuant to this section.

(c) Unless required to be filed by an earlier date as a result of discovery requests pursuant to the Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure, within sixty (60) days after the filing of an answer in an action under this section, the employer shall file with the court a wage statement detailing the employee's wages for the previous fifty-two (52) weeks, unless the employer stipulates that the maximum weekly workers' compensation rate applies in the particular action.

(d) Whenever any civil action is brought pursuant to this section, the judge or chancellor may, if the judge or chancellor so desires, visit the scene of the accident and examine the surroundings.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-6-225, is amended by deleting subsection (g) in its entirety and renumbering the remaining subsections accordingly.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 24, 1999


JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE


JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 14th day of June 1999


DON CONQUIST, GOVERNOR